

# Switch Your Bulbs!!!

## Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Believe it or not, you can decrease both your environmental footprint and the amount you pay on your home energy bills simply by replacing the incandescent light bulbs in your home with CFLs.

### WHAT IS A CFL?

CFL is an abbreviation, meaning compact fluorescent light. CFL bulbs were introduced in the 1980's as a more energy efficient light bulb. It was designed to have the advantages of a fluorescent lamp, while still being able to directly replace a regular (also known as incandescent) light bulb.



### WHY SHOULD I SWITCH TO A CFL?

There are many reasons – both environmental and economical – for switching to CFLs.

- **CFLs are much more energy efficient.**  
They produce 70% less heat and use two-thirds less energy than regular light bulbs.
- **CFLs release less CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.**  
Over their lifetime, they release much less CO<sub>2</sub> (as much as 2,000 lbs less) than a regular light bulb.
- **CFLs last longer.**  
They can last up to 10 times longer than regular light bulbs (up to 15,000 hours!), so you'll find yourself throwing away a lot less into the trash.
- **You save money!**  
Since they use less energy and are replaced less often than regular light bulbs, your bills won't be as high. You could even save more than \$100 over the lifetime of **one** CFL.

### IS THERE A PROPER WAY TO DISPOSE OF A CFL?

Yes! CFLs contain a small amount of mercury and should not be tossed in the trash can where they can break. Check with the store you purchased your CFL from to see if they will properly dispose of it for you. If not, contact your local recycling facility to find out how.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CFL BREAKS?

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) simply recommends sweeping up the broken fragments with a broom (do not vacuum) and contacting your local recycling facility. Be sure to keep children and pets away from the exposed mercury.

### THE BOTTOM LINE: CFLs ARE BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

According to Energy Star: "If every household in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars annually."

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT CFLs?

For more information about compact fluorescent lights, check out these cool websites:

- **Energy Star**  
<http://www.energystar.gov/>
- **One Billion Bulbs**  
<http://www.onebillionbulbs.com/Learn>
- **Environmental Defense Fund**  
<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/>